

New Chief for Dry Permits Is Due Soon

Selection of Aid Is One of First Tasks Facing Calhoun

The appointment of an assistant administrator in charge of permits will be one the first duties of William J. Calhoun, acting prohibition administrator for New Jersey, who was continued in that office after the removal yesterday of Captain Edwin S. Ross, former administrator. The appointment will be made by Mr. Calhoun soon, it is expected.

Captain Ross was notified at Washington by Prohibition Commissioner Doran that he was through in New Jersey.

Sent here to make an investigation of the dry unit, Mr. Calhoun suspended both Ludo C. Pickett, assistant administrator in charge of permits, and Abraham Miller, chief inspector under Pickett, after a fist fight between the pair.

For the time being, Pickett is attached to Washington, operating as a field supervisor under the direction of Dr. Doran. Miller has been transferred to New York as a supervisor. These changes have been effective for about a week, and were ordered by Dr. Doran while on a flying trip to the West Coast. Pickett is a brother of Deets Pickett, secretary of the Methodist Board of Temperance, Prohibition and Public Morals. As such he has a strong professional dry backing to keep him in an important station. He probably will be transferred elsewhere, but Dr. Doran said today he had not decided what disposition to make of him.

"Satisfied" With Brown's Men.

While it is anticipated there will be other changes in the dry unit, Mr. Calhoun said before Captain Ross re-

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turned from vacation Thursday that he was satisfied with the work of the agents under Assistant Administrator Walter E. Brown in charge of enforcement, and as long as the work continued he did not contemplate any changes in that department.

It was reported today from Washington that Commissioner Doran and Ross would have another conference early next week.

No charges against Captain Ross, who is under civil service, are contemplated and it is expected a place will be made for him in the dry unit. That he will remain a regional administrator, however, does not follow simply because he has passed the civil service examinations for that post.

Captain Ross's failure to handle the beer situation in this state to the satisfaction of the Washington authorities and his failure to keep the morale of the force under him led to his removal. His status, until assigned to another post, will be that of extended leave. He will continue to draw his salary.

Ross was called to Washington for a conference on the beer situation and Dr. Doran visited Newark early in the summer and in an interview declared the flow of beer in this state would be checked.

Since Calhoun has been in charge of the office there have been several beer raids, seizures including a carload confiscated in a Jersey City freight yard a few days ago. Some beer drinkers have complained that the beer available in this region has been of inferior quality also since Calhoun arrived.

Dr. Doran is determined to have the state a smoothly working and dependable enforcement unit and believes Calhoun will do much to straighten out the unsatisfactory state of affairs.

Calhoun is head of the special agency force in New York, but has never qualified for regional administrator. However, if Dr. Doran deems it advisable to put Calhoun permanently at the head of the New Jersey forces it could be done in the way of regular promotion from the service.